2099

Daddy Dearest

Unpublished Comic

Ghost Rider 2099
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Unpublished Comic

Way back in 1995 those nice people at Marvel Comics commissioned me and my mate Sam Salgood to produce an issue of their monthly book Ghost Rider 2099. I don't remember much about the setup of the book, but basically there was a big cyborg guy who faced off against an evil corporation called D'monix each month. There was a lot of cyberspace stuff, too. It was all very William Gibson.

I rattled off a script and gave it to Sam, who'd worked for Marvel before on Clive Barker's Saint Sinner as Max Douglas, and who later drew a short Spider Man 2099 story. Sam drew all 22 pages plus a terrific cover. Although he got his wrist slapped for using Boba Fett at one point without licencing permission, we were both paid in full and I sat back and waited for my first book to hit the stands.

A few weeks later the editor of the 2099 range, Joey Cavalieri （who now runs the Superman books at DC）, left Marvel and all the 2099 books were cancelled as part of what was called The Marvelution. Consequently my GR-2099 issue never saw publication. Sam kindly agreed to letter it according to my script and between us we produced a finished copy in black and white, but with no-one to publish it the story languished in our drawers as a piece of file work to show editors what we could do. Soon after we started work on Raven Chronicles, but that's another story.

Anyway, the chances of it ever being published are slightly less than zero, in fact I doubt Marvel even have a copy of this story on file anywhere anymore, so I figured I may as well put the whole thing up on my site as part of my portfolio. I'm aware that I'm probably being very naughty but hey, where's the harm? If anyone official asks me to remove it I will.

I haven't read it in seven years and when I look at it now there are parts of it that really make me wince, especially the first four pages, but the overall story is sound, there's some good visual storytelling, and the tale nicely subverts a few cliches. It also mucks around with time a bit, something I don't think entirely comes off, but is at least an attempt to do something different.

Enjoy
Scott Andrews

...IF YOU...

...GO DOWN TO...

...THE WOODS TODAY...

...YOU'RE IN...

...FOR A BIG SURPRISE...

...IF YOU...

...GO DOWN TO...

...THE WOODS TODAY...

...YOU'D BETTER GO...

...IN DISGUISE.

FREEFALLING INTO NOWHERE. THE HOLLOW ACHE IN HIS STOMACH, THE ADRENALIN RUSH, THE ECSTASY OF PENETRATION.

14:00 HOURS

DADDY DEAREST

Script by Scott Andrews
Art by Salgood Sam

LIKE A NAKED BABY...

...INTO A FREEZING FONT.

THE THRILL OF IMMERSION...

...THE SHOCK OF THE COLD.

ALIVE. ALIVE.

D/MONIX CENTRAL CORE.

OK, LETS SEE WHAT THE BAD GUYS ARE UP TO TODAY...

"FORM-OF SERIAL PORT!"

...WHO SAID THE NET CAN'T BE KINKY.

NEAT TRICK!

...NOT VERY SUBTLE THOUGH.

ARE YOU WHO I THINK YOU ARE?

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?

THE SKULL MAN...

[redacted] THEY'RE CALLING YOU ON THE VID-BOX.

WHO'S ASKING?

WHO CARES...

...FACT IS I'VE GOT INFORMATION THAT YOU WANT.

DO IT

D/MONEX.

YEAH? WHAT ABOUT THEM?

THERE'S THIS GUY CALLED *DR JONAR*. HIGH LEVEL TECH--CHEM WORKER AT D/MONEX, RIGHT?

WELL HE RECENTLY DEVELOPED A THEORY THAT HIS BOSSES LIKED A LOT...

...TECHNO VIRUS DESIGNED TO ATTACK AND ALTER PORTIONS OF THE *BRAIN*. DOWNLOAD IT INTO THE NET AND ANYONE WHO PLUGS IN GETS THEIR ICON RECOG CENTERS SCRAMBLED

POSSIBLE?

DUNNO. BUT THEY'RE ACTIVELY WORKING ON IT. JONAS IS IN CHARGE AND JUDGING BY THE AMOUNT OF *TIME* HE'S PUTTING IN IT COULD BE BIG. *THINK ABOUT IT*. TOTAL MARKET SUPREMACY.

BRAIN RAPE.

YEAH, BRAIN RAPE, COOL!

AND HEY FREESTO THE ONLY ICON THEIR BRAIN WILL UNDERSTAND IS THE D/MONEX COMPANY LOGO.

SO WHO ARE YOUR HOW D'YOU GET THIS STUFF?

OH, MET ERMM.. NO ONE SPECIAL.

I JUST KNOW STUFF.

REMEMBER, DIX JONAR. CREAM HIM.

HE'S GOT IT COMING IF YOU ASK ME.

I DIDN'T.

ACCESSING; PERSONNEL FILE: JONAR, DIX

D/MONEX personnel file
Name: Dix Jonar
Born: 06/11/2057
Hieght: 5'10"
Marital Status: Divorced
Dependants: 1, M, 16.

Education:
>PhD in Chem-Tech
from D/MONEX farm
school AZ52
ref:code-3646434&790
employment No:78900?
Medi-Vac No:9946298

Employment Record
Hired upon graduation,
assigned to D/MONEX
R&D labs.
Specializing in
nano-viral research.

File No: 234456722M59

...HELLO DIX.

JESUS. WHAT A DAY.

D/MONEX STAFF RESIDENCY.

18:30 HOURS

REMEMBER A HAPPY WORKER IS AN EFFICIENT WORKER. YOUR HAPPINESS IS OUR BUSINESS SO PLEASE DO NOT DAMAGE SECURITY CAMRAS. THANK YOU

LEVEL 31

SHOULDERS HUNCHED WITH THE TIREDNESS OF THE UNDERLING HE SHUFFLES HIS WEARY WAY HOME.

ACCESS GRANTED.

EVENING GUYS.

D/MONIX

HELLO MR. JONAH WOULD YOU...

YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW THE ROUTINE

D/MONIX

OK. HE'S CLEAN.

BLUUP

D/MON

SORRY! CAR KEYS!!

WHAT A SHOCKING DAY!

DREAMING OF COFFEE, SILENCE AND A GOOD BOOK...

BOOM

...HE FINALLY REACHES HIS SANCTUARY.

HERE WE GO AGAIN...

I GIVE YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW!

I DRAG YOU DOWN... I USE YOU UP.

I'M THE PAIN!

BANG BANG BANG

JALI

SELF DESTRUCT

WAY WAY WAY TOO LOUD!

I SPEAK RELIGIONS MESSAGE CLEAR. I AM DENIAL...

NET LINK TERMINATED

GUILT

KLICK

GHOST RIDER

SLAM

KLICK

AND FEAR

KLICK

RIGHT, I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

I AM THE PRAYERS

...OF THE NAI

IT'S TIME WE SORTED THIS OUT!

18:48 HOURS

SNAKE

P31

P31

51

DING

SMACK

OOOPS. THAT'S GOTTA HURT...

WHAT ■ IT WITH YOU, HUH? DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME? IS THAT IT?!

HARD TO HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER AROUND.

I SUPPOSE THAT'S FAIR. ■■■ YOU KNOW HOW IT IS. MY WORK IS VERY...

YEAH, I KNOW. VERY IMPORTANT AND TIME CONSUMING! WELL FRAG YOUR SHOCKING WORK!

WHEN HAVE YOU EVER ASKED ME WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING ALL DAY! HUH?! REALLY ASKED?

I ASK.

YEAH AND WHEN DO YOU EVER LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY?!

...WELL...

EVER SINCE MOM LEFT YOU'VE JUST SHOCKING DRIFTED!

YESTERDAY I TOLD YOU I'D BEEN STEALING PUBLIC EYE HOVERCARS AND GOING ON ■■■■ AND GRAB RAIDS AND WHAT DID YOU SAY?! HUH?! THAT'S NICE!

NO!! I'M NOT LISTENING TO YOU. I HATE YOU!!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SHOCKING ZOMBIE! PUNCHING TIME AND COLLECTING YOUR STUPID SHOCKING BOOKS.

NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME...

NO ONE READS BOOKS ANYMORE

JAMMIT! WHAT CENTURY ARE YOU LIVING IN, HUH?

I'M SORRY.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH!!

BUT YOU *DON'T* UNDERSTAND THE *PRESSURE* I'M UNDER.

DEADLINES THAT EXPIRE BEFORE THEY'RE SET...

...IMPOSSIBLE PROJECTS...

...BOSSES WHO DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK...

OH YOU *THINK* [redacted] YOU? [redacted] THAT'S A *NOVELTY* I MUST SAY.

Smack

18:59 HOURS

SHOW A LITTLE RESPECT!!

D'YOU THINK I WORK ALL WEEK TO FEED AND CLOTHE YOU JUST TO...

JOHAR YOU AND ME GOT BUSINESS!!

WHO!? WHAT... WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WANT? I WANT YOU!!

WHAT'S THAT?

DAMONIX

THAT? WORK...UH.. NOTHING IMPORTANT

INTERESTING. THIS YOUR WORK?

ER, YEAH, PARTLY.

OH YOU'RE BEING TOO MODEST DIX.

COOL! GHOST RIDER! IN MY APARTMENT!!

GO AWAY KID....

...YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS.

I'LL DO ANYTHING AS LONG AS YOU DON'T HURT MY SON!!

HYPOCRITE!!

THWACK!

RUN!! JAL, RUN!!

AHHHH!

YEAH CREAM HUMAN!

19:15 HOURS

"ALERT EMERGENCY STATION NO 345. TERRORIST SITUATION AT DIMONEX COMPLEX ATZ.

FIRE DEPT

TALK TO ME!

...WE'VE GOT A SHOCKING PYROMANIAC POLTERGEIST HERE GUYS!

FIRE DEPT

SIXTY-FIFTH.

WHAT FLOOR?

OCCUPANTS?

TWO. FATHER AND SON.

WE'LL BE THERE IN TWENTY SECONDS.

HEY VINNY, LOOKS LIKE A TANK CAME THROUGH HERE...

19:30 HOURS

NO WAY SARGE. IF ANYONE WAS CAUGHT IN THAT THEN THEY'RE TOAST.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

APARTMENT FIRE.

WENT OFF LIKE A BOMB A FEW MINUTES AGO.

FATHER AND SON. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HISTORY.

THAT'S A DIMONEX BUILDING, ISN'T IT...

PROBABLY THOSE TERRORIST PEOPLE.

WHY CAN'T THEY JUST LEAVE EVERYONE ALONE.

THEY'D PROBABLY SAY THE SAME ABOUT DIMONEX.

'Mm mm mm'—

...WHAT DID YOU SAY?

POLICE

FORD

17:00 HOURS

YEAH, CREAM HIM!!!

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

GO ON, FINISH HIM!

GHOST RIDER

I DON'T THINK SO. SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE.

19:01 HOURS

GHOST RIDER

ARE YOU OR ARE YOU NOT IN CHARGE OF THIS CHEM TECH PROJECT TO ALTER THE BRAINS OF PEOPLE WHO DOWNLOAD INTO THE NET?

ERMM. WELL, NO. I'M JUST A LAB TECHNICIAN.

PROVE IT.

GO ON DAD. YOU CAN'T LIE TO GHOST RIDER!

FILE 3452

PROJECT
RANDOM
ACCESS
MIND VIRUS

STAF

PROJECT MANAG
SHELY
GREEN
ASSISTANT MANAG
AL ROY
RESEARCH TE
STEVEN ANDERSO
JONATHAN SHUSE
LIZ WHITE
ROB
OMAR
DIX JONAH

IS THAT WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT?

THAT STUPID MIND-VIRUS PROJECT?

IT'S NOT STUPID. IT'S DEADLY!

LORIE WILSON
DIX JONAH

PROJECT

IT WAS RUBBISH. TECHNOBABBLE DREAMED UP BY SOME DEADNECK MANAGEMENT EXEC...

LOOK AT THIS.

19:03 HOURS

...WE HAD TO *WORK* ON IT FOR A WEEK BEFORE WE COULD CONVINCE ANYONE THAT IT WAS *UNWORKABLE*

BUT... ...BUT?

BUT WHAT KID?

BUT I *SAW* THE FILES, AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY, LIKE, *HIGH UP* AND IN CHARGE AND STUFF.

YOU'VE BEEN HACKING *INTO* MY COMPUTER?

OH *HE'S* BEEN DOING A LOT MORE THAN *THAT*. HAVEN'T YOU...

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, ANYWAY?!

HE'S D/MONEX ISN'T HE!!

SHOCKING *WILD GOOSE CHASE* KID, YOU SHOULDN'T MESS IN THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!!

AND I HAVE *FAR BETTER* THINGS TO DO THAN CARRY OUT *GRUDGE HITS* FOR SPOILT LITTLE BOYS!!

JAL, WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

YOUR SON *CONTACTED* ME.. IT *WAS* YOU WASN'T IT!?

YEAH. S'POSE SO.

YEAH WELL YOU EXPLAIN *LATER*, RIGHT NOW MY MAIN *PRIORITY* IS *WHAT* TO DO WITH YOU.

PACK YOUR *BAGS* QUICKLY. I HAD TO *DISPOSE* OF A GUARD ON MY WAY IN AND WHEN THEY FIND HIM ALL HELL IS GOING TO BREAK LOOSE.

BUT...

PACK NOW!!

03:08 HOURS

The next day

ARE WE THERE YET?

FORD

19:10 HOURS

OK. WE'VE GOT OUR STUFF. WHAT NOW?

RIGHT. I'M GOING TO COVER OUR TRACKS.

..UM, WHAT'S THAT?

A BOMB.

DETROIT

5 Km

05:05 HOURS

The next day

RIGHT. YOU'VE GOT 5 K'S TO DETROIT.

IT'S A SMALL, NON CORP TOWN AND THEY WON'T BE LOOKING FOR YOU ANYWAY...

...THEY THINK YOU'RE DEAD.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND?...

IT'S SIMPLE DAD...

...WE'RE GOING TO LIVE SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM SHOCKING D/MONEX

NO MORE DEADLINES. NO MORE GUARDS. NO MORE TIME PUNCHING.

EXACTLY. YOU'RE GOING BUILD A LIFE OUT HERE.

WE ARE?

YEAH. AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE NICE TO EACH OTHER...

YOU ARE GOING TO STOP GIVING HIM SUCH A HARD TIME.

HE MAY NOT BE MUCH OF A FATHER BUT COMPARED TO MINE HE'S GOD.

YOU HAVE A FATHER?

...AND YOU ARE GOING TO START A NEW CAREER...

...AWAY FROM COMPANY INFLUENCE AND YOU CAN GIVE THIS LITTLE BRAT A LITTLE TIME.

DON'T SIT, YOU MI

OH...

...AND IF I HEAR OF ANY TROUBLE WITH YOU TWOP

I'LL BE BACK.

SORRY ABOUT YOUR BOOKS.

DON'T WORRY. THEY'RE ONLY THINGS.

DETROIT
5 Km

SO AM I GROUNDED?

WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT.

THE END